

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 SP-02

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R 160315Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 544

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 0261

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, EAID, NP

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR KHAMPAS

REF: A) STATE 004272; B) KATHMANDU 5227

1. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVES (RIZVI FROM GENEVA AND RASANYAGAM FROM BANGKOK) MET WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS JANUARY 10 AND 11 TO DISCUSS KHAMPA REFUGEE PROBLEM. BOTH WERE IN NEPAL TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM HMG ABOUT DIMENSIONS OF PROBLEM AND TO SOUND OUT HMG ON ITS DESIRES AND VIEWS RE POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

2. SCOPE OF PROBLEM. ACCORDING TO RIZVI PERSONS TO BE RESETTLED NUMBER 3-4,000. THIS FIGURE INCLUDES "AS MANY AS 700 KHAMPAS," REMAINDER BEING CAMP-FOLLOWERS AND OTHERS WHO HAVE LIVED AMONG KHAMPAS FOR MANY YEARS(E.E., TIBETAN DUKPAS). OF THESE ONLY ABOUT 1100 ARE CURRENTLY DISPLACED, HAVING BEEN MOVED FROM MUSTANG TO NUWAKOT CAMP NEAR POKHARA. REMAINING KHAMPAS HAVE YET TO BE MOVED BY HMG.

3. HMG PLANS. GOVERNMENT IS NOW PLANNING TO DISPERSE KHAMPAS ALONG POKHARA-TRISULI, RATHER THAN FORM NEW SETTLEMENTS.

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DISTRICT OFFICERS IN THESE AREAS HAVE BEEN ASKED

TO PROVIDE ESTIMATE HOW MANY CAN BE PLACED IN THEIR AREAS. AT MOMENT HMG HOPES TO PLACE 100-200 IN NUWAKOT, 200 IN POTAR NEAR TRISULI, AS MANY AS 500 IN HILITAR NEAR POKHARA, AND 200 IN KATHMANDU. AS SOON AS NUWAKOT CONCENTRATION IS REPLACED, HMG WOULD THEN BEGIN TO MOVE OTHERS DOWN FROM NORTHERN REGIONS TO BE RESETTLED IN GROUPS OF 100-200 IN OTHER EXISTING VILLAGE STRUCTURES.

4. UN ASSISTANCE. RIZVI SAID THAT HMG HAD REDUCED ITS ORIGINAL ESTIMATE OF \$1.8 MILLION REQUIRED FOR RESETTLEMENT BUT THAT \$500,000 - \$600,000 WOULD STILL BE REQUIRED AS MINIMUM. HE TOLD EMBOFFS THAT HE HAD MADE CLEAR TO HMG THAT ANY ASSISTANCE WOULD HAVE TO BE A ONE-TIME COMMITMENT OF FOOD, HOUSING MATERIALS, AND IMPLEMENTS FOR AGRICULTURE OR INDUSTRY. UNHCR WOULD NOT ACCEPT OPEN-ENDED AGREEMENT IN DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM. RIZVI PROPOSED A ONE-TIME CONTRIBUTION IN KIND WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT HMG WOULD ACCEPT PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR KHAMPA RESETTLEMENT. PALACE OFFICIALS, ACCORDING TO RIZVI, ASSURED HIM THAT RESETTLEMENT WAS GON RESPONSIBILITY TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY RESETTLEMENT CORPORATION UNDER GENERAL GUIDANCE OF HOME MINISTRY.

5. REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE. ALTHOUGH UNHCR REPRESENTATIVES SAID THAT ANY PROGRAM WOULD BE MULTINATIONAL EFFORT, IT WAS CLEAR FROM CONVERSATION THAT RIZVI HAS NOT, AS YET, APPROACHED ANY POTENTIAL DONORS OTHER THAN USG. AFTER LONG EXPLANATION OF WHY UNHCR DOES NOT HAVE FUNDS FOR KHAMPA RESETTLEMENT, RIZVI PROPOSED THAT POSSIBLE DONOR NATIONS BE APPROACHED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN KIND UNDER AEGIS OF THEIR EXISTING AID PROGRAMS. UNDER THIS CONCEPT U.S., FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD BE ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE CORRUGATED SHEETING OR INDUSTIAL TOOLS THROUGH ON-GOING AID PROGRAMS AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL FOODSTUFFS TO WORLD FOOD PROGRAM WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT INCREASE WOULD BE EARMARKED FOR KHAMPA RESETTLEMENT. OTHER DONORS WOULD BE

ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE IN KIND BY SIMILAR INCREASE IN THEIR AID PROJECTS IN NEPAL. RIZVI, WHEN PRESSED, SAID HE HOPED FOR \$300,000 FROM U.S. AS "INTERESTED DONOR".  
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6. EMBASSY OFFICERS AGREED TO REPORT RIZVI'S PROPOSALS TO WASHINGTON BUT POINTED OUT THAT U.S. WAS NOT VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT KHAMPA RESETTLEMENT AND WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT AGREE TO ANY PROPOSAL IN WHICH U.S. WAS SOLE, OR EVEN MAJOR, DONOR. U.S., FURTHERMORE, HAD NO PROJECTS IN NEPAL UNDER WHICH ASSISTANCE COULD BE PROVIDED KHAMAPAS, MUCH LESS DIVERTED UNDER "INFORMAL

ARRANGEMENT" RIZVI PROPOSED.

7. COMMENT: IT APPEARS TO US THAT RIZVI AND UNHCR STILL HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF HOMEWORK TO DO BEFORE THEY COME UP WITH REALISTIC PROPOSAL. (UNHCR REPS, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE NOT VISITED NUWAKOT FOR ASSESSMENT OF REFUGEE PROBLEM THERE AND ACCORDING TO RIZVI HAVE NO PLANS TO DO SO.) ALTHOUGH WE SYMPATHIZE WITH UNHCR VIEW THAT IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ARRIVE AT COMPLETELY ACCURATE FIGURE OF TOTAL NUMBER OF KHAMPAS TO BE RESETTLED, WE FEAR THAT HMG IS USING KHAMPA QUESTION TO GET INTERNATIONAL AID TO RESETTLE A NUMBER OF PERSONS FROM NORTHERN DISTRICTS WHO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH KHAMPAS. WE ALSO REALIZE THAT UNHCR, AS WELL AS HMG, IS TRYING TO HANDLE A DELICATE POLITICAL QUESTION THROUGH SERIES OF DISCRETE, INFORMAL UNDERSTANDINGS. WE APPRECIATE RIZVI'S ASSURANCES THAT HMG IS ANXIOUS NOT TO HAVE KHAMPA QUESTION BECOME POLITICAL FOOTBALL, OR BILATERAL U.S.- NEPAL ISSUE, BUT WE QUESTION WHETHER QUASI-COVERT DIVERSION OF LIMITED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE RESOURCES THROUGH EXISTING PROGRAMS (E.E., WITHOUT FORMAL AGREEMENTS) IS PROPER WAY TO ASSURE THAT RELIEF GETS TO THOSE FEW KHAMPAS WHO MAY NEED IT. AS INDICATED REF B ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION OF FOOD TO WFP MIGHT PROVIDE MEANS OF ASSISTING GON, WITHOUT THE UNDESIRABLE ASPECTS OF HIDDEN ITEMS IN ONGOING U.S. AID PROGCAMS.

8. WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON'S VIEWS ON RIZVI'S PROPOSALS. IN ANY FUTURE MEETING WITH UNHCR REPRESENTATIVES WE SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT STRESS THAT CONCRETE PROPOSALS BASED ON HARD INFORMATION ARE STILL BASIC PREREQUISITE BEFORE USG COULD CONSIDER CONTRIBUTION. WHILE UNHCR BUDGET MAY BE AS TIGHT AS RIZVI CLAIMS, IT STRIKES US AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOMEWHAT UNREALISTIC FOR UNHCR TO SOLICIT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHERS WITHOUT OFFERING SOME DIRECT INPUT ON ITS OWN.  
CARGO

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## Message Attributes

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